



# COVID-19 and the Courts

## An update from Chief Justice Minton

CDC: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) ▪ Kentucky Public Health: [COVID-19](#) ▪ KCOJ: [COVID-19 and the Courts](#)

### Update for April 14, 2020

Justices, Judges, Circuit Court Clerks and Kentucky Court of Justice Personnel:

With the COVID-19 state of emergency still in place in Kentucky and nationwide, the Supreme Court today extended the effective dates of three orders that govern court operations during the pandemic. The three orders described below were to expire May 1, but will now be effective through May 31, 2020.

#### **In-person services suspended, court proceedings to be conducted remotely**

The Supreme Court has restricted dockets, jury trials and jury service from taking place in-person at court facilities. [Administrative Order 2020-22](#), dated April 14, 2020, replaces in its entirety Administrative Order 2020-16, dated April 1, 2020. The effective date of the order has been extended through May 31, 2020.

#### **50/50 staffing schedule implemented for offices of circuit and appellate clerks**

The Supreme Court has extended the 50/50 staffing schedule for the offices of circuit and appellate clerks through May 31. [Administrative Order 2020-23](#), dated April 14, 2020, replaces in its entirety Administrative Order 2020-18, dated April 3, 2020. The 50/50 staffing schedule reduces the risk to our front-line employees by allowing circuit and appellate clerks to divide their workforce into teams so that they can rotate when they will be at work in two-week blocks.

#### **Special Emergency Directed Leave offered to Judicial Branch employees**

Last week the Supreme Court approved the use of Special Emergency Directed Leave for employees who cannot telecommute and who are considered at high risk for infection per guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control. [Administrative Order 2020-24](#) dated April 14, 2020, replaces in its entirety Administrative Order 2020-20, dated April 7, 2020. To request Special Emergency Directed Leave, please complete this [form](#) and submit it to the AOC Department of Human Resources at [COJHR2@kycourts.net](mailto:COJHR2@kycourts.net).

Thank you for your efforts to observe strict social distancing. The COVID-19 outbreak is by no means over and we must continue to be vigilant, both professionally and personally, so that we and those we come into contact with can stay safe and well.



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